

# Freedom of Information Request

---

Reference Number: EPUT.FOI.18.510  
Date Received: 12 April 2018

---

**\*Note to Applicant:** As of 1 April 2017, North Essex Partnership University NHS Foundation Trust (NEP) and South Essex Partnership University NHS Foundation Trust (SEPT) merged to form one new organisation known as Essex Partnership University NHS Foundation Trust (EPUT).

---

## Information Requested:

1. Has your organisation suffered a successful ransomware attack since June 2017?
  2. How many successful ransomware attacks has your organisation experienced since June 2017?
  3. Since June 2017 have you implemented a dedicated cyberattack crisis plan?
  4. Since June 2017 have you updated an existing cyberattack crisis plan?
  5. Since June 2017 have you allocated more budget to cybersecurity defences?
  6. Since June 2017 have you held staff training sessions with regard to cybersecurity awareness?
  7. Since June 2017 have you implemented implemented a regular backup of data?
- 

## Response:

The Trust believes that to confirm or deny information is held on cyber-attacks or to release any sensitive information could potentially give attackers insight into which types of attacks are successful thereby posing a security risk leaving systems vulnerable. Therefore, this has the potential to prejudice the prevention of crime. Additionally 'cyber-attack' is not a standardised term for all government departments so information is compiled differently or not at all and therefore may not give an accurate reflection of the extent of any incident that may or may not have occurred.

The Trust is therefore applying Section 24 of the Act (National Security).

---

## Applied Exemption:

### Section 24: National Security

- (1) Information which does not fall within section 23(1) is exempt information if exemption from section 1(1)(b) is required for the purpose of safeguarding national security.
- (2) The duty to confirm or deny does not arise if, or to the extent that, exemption from section 1(1)(a) is required for the purpose of safeguarding national security.

- (3) A certificate signed by a Minister of the Crown certifying that exemption from section 1(1)(b), or from section 1(1)(a) and (b), is, or at any time was, required for the purpose of safeguarding national security shall, subject to section 60, be conclusive evidence of that fact.
- (4) A certificate under subsection (3) may identify the information to which it applies by means of a general description and may be expressed to have prospective effect.